

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson et al.)
Application No.: not yet assigned) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Continuation of Serial No. 09/872,905)
Filed: June 1, 2001)
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE) July 21, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully submit the following:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the first line of the specification after the title, and insert the following:

--Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/872,905, filed on June 1, 2001, entitled "Tissue Distraction Device" in the name of the same inventors, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/274,372, filed on March 8, 2001. - -

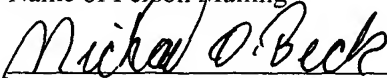
"Express mail" mailing label number EV 162786580 US

Date of Deposit July 21, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1. 10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Michael D. Beck

Name of Person Mailing



Signature of Person Mailing